

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for indicating allowable subject matter. By this response, to place the case in condition for allowance, Claims 1, 5, 7, 24, and 31 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 12-16, 18, 23, 25-30 are amended. No claims are added. Hence, Claims 2-4, 6, 8-23, and 25-30 are pending in the application. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed August 11, 2005 are addressed herein. In view of the comments provided hereinafter, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objected to Claim 23 for informalities. Claim 23 is amended herein and has proper antecedent basis as amended.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7, 9-20, and 23-31. Although Applicants disagree with the rejections, to expedite prosecution, the claims are amended herein to obviate the rejections, as discussed in the next section.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action objected to Claim 8 but indicated that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten. Claim 8 is rewritten herein as suggested, including all limitations of the base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims (Claim 5), and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Further, all claims that formerly depended from Claim 1, directly or indirectly, are amended herein to depend directly or indirectly from Claim 8. Because Claim 8 is allowable, all such amended claims are believed to be allowable because they include all steps of Claim 8.

Claims 25, 26, and 27 are amended to recite the same scope as Claim 8, as amended, except that Claims 25, 26, and 27 are presented in computer-readable medium format, means-apparatus format, and apparatus format, respectively. Because Claims 25, 26, and 27 as amended recite all features of Claim 8, Claims 25, 26, and 27 are also believed to be in allowable condition.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed, and that the amendments herein place the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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